

Director's Message

Autumn's colorful vistas will morph into drabness, and the winds of winter will soon prevail. Perhaps that is why we eagerly use greens and lights to brighten our environments in the cold, dreary months ahead.

The summer months were busy ones for this Director, with two horticultural trips, to the Pine Hollow Arboretum and the Schenectady Rose Garden. There were two well-planned Columbia County Days. Camille McComb organized Columbia County Day during National Garden Week, and Carole Garvar chaired Greene-Schoharie Day. The response to both was gratifying.

During National Garden Week "Tea with Roses in the Garden" was held in this Director's backyard under a tent with 62 members attending, and then the trip to the Newport Flower Show "Salsa" fielded 43 members.

This Director attended the FGCNYS Fall Conference in Binghamton and was included in an awards workshop chaired by Jeanne Nelson.

Next this Director attended a very successful Judges Council flower arranging workshop for the Guelderland Garden Club. Under the guidance of the judges, the members created fabulous arrangements.

For The Holidays

For the holidays the **Blue Creek Garden Club** will decorate the Pruyn House, the restored circa 1830 country home of Casparus Pruyn in the hamlet of Newtonville. This year's theme is "The Magic of Toyland," featuring old-time toys and ornaments. The decorations will be on display for the public free of charge on Saturday, December 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 2, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. There will also be also a Holiday Boutique featuring freshly made table arrangements, wreaths and miscellaneous items. The address is 207 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, which is near Exit 5 of the Thruway.



For the holidays, The **Country Garden Club of Clifton Park** will be again be decorating Historic Grooms Tavern, a beautiful historic building owned and operated by the Town of Clifton Park. Built circa 1825 by James Groom, the tavern was the site of Clifton Park's first town meeting on April 1, 1828, and has served other uses over the years, such as an inn, with the last being a general store that occupies the largest part of the building. It is now a cultural center available for community events. This year we are planning a theme that relates to the building or the surrounding rural area.

An open house for the public will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 9, by the Friends of the Historic Tavern. Our decor can be seen then, while enjoying refreshments and holiday music.

The **Germantown Garden Club** will present a children's Gingerbread House Contest at its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, December 2, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Old Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown. Come see the masterpieces that these young artists have created from edible materials. The kids really get into the spirit of decorating gingerbread houses, and it is

fun to see what they come up with. Also at this event, hand-decorated, one-of-a-kind, fresh wreaths and table arrangements made by garden club members will be for sale. Come early. The wreaths are a best-seller for the club and get sold very quickly. There will also be a Holiday Crafts Boutique with ornaments and holiday items to purchase. Proceeds from the sale benefit the club's local high school scholarship fund and other community donations and projects.

Each year, the club sponsors an Adorn-a-Door holiday decorating competition for the senior residents at Palatine Manor in Germantown. Club members will judge this event, and prizes will be awarded. The seniors are really enthusiastic about this and do a fabulous job decorating the doors to their apartments.

The theme for the **Guilderland Garden Club's** 2012 Mynderse-Frederick House Greens Show and Open House is "Snow and Ice." Located at 451 Main Street, Route 146, in Guilderland Center, this free event co-sponsored by the Guilderland Historical Society, provides a festive atmosphere, home-made refreshments and musical entertainment throughout the weekend. Decorations made by members of the Guilderland Garden Club may be purchased. Nonperishable donations will be collected for the Regional Food Bank. Hours are Friday, November 30, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, December 1, 1-6 p.m.; Sunday, December 2, 1-5 p.m.



Toward the end of November **Garden Club of Kinderhook** members will make wreaths for the Columbia County Historical Society's Gallery of Wreaths, which will be up for sale November 30. The wreaths will be on exhibit at the James Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad St., Kinderhook Village.

The club will decorate Lindenwald, the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site for its Candlelight Tour December 7 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The address is 1013 Old Post Road (Rte. 9H), Kinderhook. Call 518-758-9689 for reservations.



December 14 is Candlelight Night in Kinderhook Village. We will decorate two rooms at the Vanderpoel House, with a theme of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Refreshments will be offered. Trees, a child's bed, sugar plums, mice (not real ones) and stockings hung

with care are all in the plan.

On December 1, the **Shawangunk Garden Club** will be decorating the Terwilliger House Museum at 40 Center Street in Ellenville for the Holiday Season. The club's annual holiday celebration will be held at 1 pm on December 8th at the home of Dale Craft in Wawarsing. Members will enjoy lunch, gifts and participate in an "ugly holiday sweater" contest. As we do each month, members will donate food items for the local food pantries.

A dried flower workshop was held in September, and members created all the centerpieces for the Fall District Meeting. Fourteen of them!!!!

The Fall District Meeting, "Autumn in New York," was well attended, and the presenter, Andrew Koehn, Manager of the Mohonk Mountain House gardens in New Paltz, kept members alert and inquisitive. Hopefully, it was a motivational, educational and entertaining day and everyone learned something of value to take away.

The election of officers for 2013-2015 took place, and the new board will need your support, so please consider serving. It's definitely a worthwhile experience, and Olive Felio, Director-Elect, needs your cooperation. Call her!! Olive's number is (518) 286-1924. Call her!!!!

On November 15 there will be a short board meeting, and then we shall have **WORKSHOPS**. Any District member may sign up. Free & Fun. There will be four sessions of approximately 40 minutes each. Members should bring a sandwich; the beverage and dessert will be provided. Please come at 11:00 a.m. and stay until 2:00 p.m. Workshop topics will be: Awards, Flower Show Info., Yearbooks and Pressbooks.

At this Director's house, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the eve of the first day of winter, there will be tea served (and maybe crumpets?? Whatever they are??) and sipped in the presence of a large decorated tree and friendly holiday-spirited District III members. The date is Thursday, December 20. Please come!!!!

The holiday season is such a busy one for all our District clubs because most if not all do some degree of decorating historic or municipal buildings.

Our Spring District Meeting will be held Thursday, April 18, 2013, at Birch Hill in Schodack. "Spring Fascination" will have popular and creative Carl Lemanski doing

the presentation. In conjunction with this there will be a contest that has our lovely members sporting 'Fascinators.'* So...create one during the winter months. Use your imagination and add bees, butterflies, birds, blossoms, etc., to your creation. It will be a "fascinating spring" after a winter of (dis)content.

Last but not least, this Director wishes to express sincere gratitude to all those members who work so diligently to make our spring and fall District meetings such successful events. You are truly appreciated by this "recycled" Director. Thank you and Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!!



* Director's description of a fascinator: a mini-chapeau that perches on a head decoratively.

A Different Take on Flower Shows

Who says a flower show has to feature live or dried flowers? During the months of August and September the Shawangunk Garden Club hosted a very successful Photo Flower Show entitled "JOY LIVES WITHIN THE GARDEN" in the Gallery of the Ellenville Public Library and Museum at 40 Center Street, Ellenville. On display were club members' personal 8" x 10" photographs taken of their favorite flowers and gardens.



Club News

Clematis

In September, 21 Clematis members toured the Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville. Joan Kutcher, Executive Director, explained the history of the arboretum and gave us a tour of the grounds. The club also awarded the Garden of the Month designation to a garden in Oak Hill which had been washed out in Hurricane Irene last year and rebuilt for this year.

In October, club member and Master Gardener Dolores Ferrer lectured on identifying and feeding birds. Then club members told what worked well for them in the garden this year and shared plans and tips for next year.

In November club members have a holiday luncheon at the Mountainview Brasserie. Featured are the installation of new officers and the honoring of two long-time club members. Members bring holiday arrangements (either Thanksgiving or Christmas) to decorate the tables.

In December Melissa Rosa will lead members in a hands-on workshop using greens to make holiday decorations for their homes. Melissa, a club member and owner of Gardenworks, is a Certified Nursery/Landscape Professional. She will also demonstrate principles of design while making an arrangement for the Greenville Library.

Mary Lou Nahas

Germantown

The club will hold its annual Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 4 at noon, at the Old Parsonage, 52 Maple Ave., Germantown. At this meeting, members bring a holiday table arrangement for judging and a gift for one of the residents at the Livingston Hills Nursing Center. Members also bring a covered dish for the luncheon, which is a popular way to celebrate the end of our year-long endeavors.

Karen Jansen

Greenport

Greenport Garden Club took first place at the Columbia County Fair's garden club booth exhibits. This year's theme for the exhibits was "Community Outreach, Join a Garden Club." The display was staged and created by club members Kathy Bucholsky, Carolyn West, Yetta Teo, Cynthia Atkinson, Joann Concra and Angela Rapp.

Sharing a hobby or passion with an eager learner is always fun and rewarding. For the last five years, members of the Greenport Garden Club have worked alongside children enrolled in the Junior Gardening Club at the Hudson Bluehawk Nation After-school Program. Working under the guidance of garden club women for nine weeks, children have completed nature crafts and floral designs and gardening tasks. Favorite projects have included Queen Anne's Lace pressed pictures, Swedish Ivy propagation, paper making, decouped flowerpots, stained glass leaf project, Paper Whites, flower arrangement in pumpkins (*at left*), Lavender sachets project and paper books. It has been hard to know who has had more fun at the Junior Gardener classes, the children or their mentors! Workshop committee members are Cynthia Atkinson, Betsy Hamilton, Sue Dillhoff, Kathy Bucholsky, Cecelia Sinclair and Carolyn West, chair.

Maaria Koldziej-Zincio



Officers-Elect

These 2013-2015 District officers were elected at the fall meeting. They will be installed in April.

Director: Olive Felio

First Assistant Director: Marilyn Ryan

Second Assistant Director: Camille McComb

Recording Secretary: Vivian Wachsberger

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Giordano

Treasurer: Beverly Kallner

Assistant Treasurer: Gary Barrack

2012 Columbia County Fair

Greenport



Kinderhook



Germantown



Claverack



Awards

presented at "Autumn in New York"

Awards, by Clubs

Clematis Garden Club

Blue Star Memorial Marker
Publication - Newsletter
Civic Concern Award #6.H.ii
Promoting Landscape Design and Education

Country Garden Club of Clifton Park

Horticulture Therapy
Historic Preservation Award #46.D.a
*"Plant It Pink" (National Garden Clubs initiated this project for "Breast Cancer Awareness." It was publicized in the **National Gardener** magazine. There is no specific award available for this project from National or State. However, NGC does want projects submitted to them. This entry will be sent on to the NGC Chairman. This certainly is worthy of an award at District level.)*

Garden Club of Kinderhook

Publication - Cookbook - Award #52 B.7. NGC #13A
Historic Preservation/Memorial Gardens Award #41.A.ii
Historic Decorations - Award #41.D
Civic Concern Award #6.d
Civic Concern Award #7
Standard Flower Show Schedule - "Down on the Delta"
Standard Flower Show - "Down on the Delta"
Special Exhibit/Standard Flower Show - Youth Education
Peg King Memorial flower Show Citation (*and a check for \$50*)

Germantown Garden Club

Standard Flower Show Schedule - "ABC 123"
Standard Flower Show - "ABC 123"

Greenbush Garden Club

Publication - Newsletter
Garden Therapy
Civic Concern

Columbia County Garden Clubs

National Garden Week Award #15.B
Civic Concern - Columbia County Fair

Third District Yearbook Awards

- Class 1 First Place - H. Gilbert Harlow GC
Second Place - Saugerties Society of Little Gardens
- Class 2 First Place - Greenport GC
Second Place - GC of Clifton Park
Third Place - Greenbush GC
HM - Catskill and Coxsackie GCs
- Class 3 First Place - Germantown GC
Second Place - Athens GC
HM - Community GC of Marlborough
- Class 4 First Place - Shawangunk GC
HM - Clematis and New Paltz GCs

New York State Awards

Membership: 65th Anniversary Citation - Schoharie Valley GC

Club Recognition: Country GC of Clifton Park, Germantown GC, New Paltz GC, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Schoharie Valley GC, Tioronda GC



National Garden Clubs Awards

Flower Show Achievement Award – Germantown Garden Club for “From Farm to Table”

Germantown Garden Club members Kate Kennedy, Melanie Nelson and Rita Edwards display NGC flower show award (center) plus other awards presented at the Fall District Meeting.



NGC Award #13-3-Aii: Publication, Coloring Book “Be a Kid Again” - Garden Club of Kinderhook

Columbia County Fair Co-chairs Fran Heaney and Camille McComb, with New York state President Pam Foeshner

Happy Holidays

“Autumn in New York”



Above: some of the vendor offerings.

Left and below: Arrangement by club members on display at the Fall District Meeting in Kingston.



Members of the Garden Club of Kinderhook named presenter Andrew Koehn honorary club member for the day. *Left to right:* Jean Smith, Camille McComb, Beverly Kallner, Mr. Koehn, Cynthia Tiano, Reneta Benenati, Fran Heaney, Vivian Wachsberger, Maryann Weber and Marilyn Ryan.

Assistant Treasurer Jean Smith and Director-Elect Olive Felio at the Third District boutique table.





***The Digest* Online**

is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month before each issue (January, April, July and October).

Please send news of your club's activities, events and plans - it's a great way to share with other clubs. Unlike in print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color. Pictures don't cost extra either, and they can be saved, downloaded and printed whenever you wish.

Material for ***The Digest*** should be sent to Maryann Weber, snail mail 2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie NY, 12184; or email junco@fairpoint.net. Unformatted copy and jpeg pictures are easiest to work with, but I'll try to decipher whatever you send - and contact you if I'm stumped.

Wishing you a very happy Holiday Season and a wonderful 2013.

Maryann